

Theodor Herzl quotes regarding Palestine

You know that in some lands the Jewish problem has come to mean calamity for the government. If it sides with the Jews, it is confronted by the ire of the masses; if it sides against the Jews, it may call disagreeable economic consequences down upon its head because of the peculiar influence of the Jews upon the business affairs of the world. Examples of the latter may be met with in Russia.. — Theodor Herzl's Opening Address to the First Zionist Congress -(August 1897)

Spirit the penniless population across the frontier by denying it employment... Both the process of expropriation and the removal of the poor must be carried out discreetly and circumspectly. Theodore Herzl, founder of the World Zionist Organization, speaking of the Arabs of Palestine, Complete Diaries, June 12, 1895 entry.

We must expropriate gently the private property on the state assigned to us. We shall try to spirit the penniless population across the border by procuring employment for it in the transit countries, while denying it employment in our country. The property owners will come over to our side. Both the process of expropriation and the removal of the poor must be carried out discretely and circumspectly. Let the owners of the immovable property believe that they are cheating us, selling us things for more than they are worth. But we are not going to sell them anything back. (Theodore Herzl, 12 June 1895)

Without preparation, I told Newlinsky that we imagine that Palestine would be given to us for £20 million. Two million would be given to Palestine on the basis of the capitalisation of its present [1896] yield of £80,000 annually. With the other £18 million, we should free Turkey from the Control Commission. Theodor Herzl, founder of political Zionism, 1860 - 1904, from a Personal Diary entry 18 May

1896.

The Jewish question persists wherever Jews live in appreciable numbers. Wherever it does not exist, it is brought in together with Jewish immigrants.

If we move into a region where there are wild animals to which (European) Jews are not accustomed – big snakes etc. – I shall use the natives, prior to giving them employment in the transit countries, for the extermination of these animals. High premiums for snake skins, etc, as well as their spawn. Herzl, Handwritten Diary entry 12 June 1895, op. cit. Herzl Diaries, vol.1,

The agreement could take the following form: His Majesty issue most gracious invitation to the Jews to return to the land their fathers; this invitation will have the force of law and will be made known to the Powers in advance.

In return for a graduated loan of twenty million pounds sterling, which would be distributed over a number of years, the Sultan would, with previous notification of the Powers, invite the Jews all over the world to return to the land of their fathers where they are to have autonomy and pay him an annual tribute. It is on this tribute that the loan would be based.

Your Imperial and Royal Majesty! Most Gracious Kaiser and Lord! With deepest reverence a delegation of sons of Israel approaches the German Kaiser in the country which was our fathers and no longer belongs to us. We are bound to this sacred soil through no valid title of ownership. Many generations have come and gone since this earth was Jewish. If we talk about it, it is only as about a dream of very ancient days. But the dream is still alive, lives in many hundreds of thousands of hearts; it was and is a wonderful comfort in many an hour of pain for our poor people. Whenever foes

oppressed us with accusations and persecutions, whenever we were liegrudged the little bit of right to live, whenever we were excluded from the society of our fellow citizens - whose destinies we have always been ready to share

The thought of Zion arose in our oppressed hearts. This is the land of our fathers, a land suitable for colonization and cultivation. Your Majesty has seen the country. It cries out for people to work it. And we have among our brethren a fright- ful proletariat. These people cry out for a land to cultivate.

At night and in the morning the sea was wonderfully still and shimmered in variegation. When it grew light, we began to peer toward the Jewish coast. Toward seven o'clock the first bit of land, two dots of mountains on the right, was sighted by Wolffsohn. We ap- proached the land of our fathers with mixed feelings. Strange what emotions this desolate country stirs up in most people: in die old German pastor from South Africa, in the Russian muzhik in the foul-smelling steerage, in the Arabs who have been trav- eling with us from Constantinople, in us Zionists.

Baron Rothschild's actions are motivated by a great idea, the idea of bringing ever greater masses of Jews into the land of their fore- fathers, in order there to create for them opportunities for earning a living and to regenerate them morally and economically.

Should we go to South America, which would have a lot in its favor on account of its distance from militarized and seedy Europe, our first state treaties will have to be with South Ameri- can republics.

We shall grant them loans in return for territorial privileges and guarantees. One of the most important concessions they will have to make to us is to allow us to have defensive troops.

In the beginning we shall need their permission. Gradually we shall

get strong, grant ourselves everything that we need, and be able to defy everyone.

For the time being we must get protection from the troops of the state that receives us. Later we shall make an independent alliance with it.

We must have a South American and a European policy.

If we are in South America, the establishment of our State will not come to Europe's notice for a considerable period of time.

In South America we could at first live according to the laws, extradition treaties, etc. of the receiving state (vis-i-vis Europe)! Our defensive troops will always comprise ten percent of the male emigrants. In this way we shall get an Army together un- observed, but will for a long time proceed cautiously, exploiting the enmities of the republics and preserving their friendship through presents, bribes, loans, etc.

The crossing is to take place by local groups and social units. There will be first-class, second-class, and third-class ships, each with instruction and entertainment appropriate to it. In this way the inciting example of class differences (observed at close proximity over many days) will be avoided.

The pious Christians of England would help us if we went to Palestine. For they expect the coming of the Messiah after the Jews have returned home.

If it is God's will that we return to our historic fatherland, we should like to do so as representatives of Western civilization, and bring cleanliness, order, and the well-distilled customs of the Occident to this plague-ridden, blighted comer of the Orient.

He offered his services as an intermediary. He claims to be on good

terms with Izzet Bey, the Sultan's favorite. I told him in a few words what it was all about. We shall bestow enormous benefits upon Turkey and confer big gifts upon the intermediaries, if we obtain Palestine. This means nothing less than its cession as an independent country. In return we shall thoroughly straighten out Turkey's finances.

He had the following idea. It ought to be suggested to the Sultan that he take charge of the Zionist movement and proclaim to the Jews that he would throw Palestine open to them as a principality, under his suzerainty, with its own laws, army, etc. In return, the Jews would have to pay a tribute of about a million pounds each year. This tribute could then be immediately mortgaged against a loan (which we would raise).

The Sultan could ceremoniously invite the Jews to return to their historic homeland, to establish themselves there autonomously as vassals of the Turkish Empire and in return pay him a tribute (on the basis of which he could then raise a loan).

The agreement could take the following form: His Majesty issues a most gracious invitation to the Jews to return to the land of their fathers; this invitation will have the force of law and will be made known to the Powers in advance.

His Majesty should graciously make the following concessions: The immigration of the Jews into Palestine, which is not only to be completely unrestricted but is to be encouraged in every way by the imperial Turkish government. The immigrant Jews are to be given autonomy, guaranteed under international law. In the constitution, government, and administration of justice is the territory assigned to them. (Palestine as a vassal state.

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In return for a graduated loan of twenty million pounds sterling, which would be distributed over a number of years, the Sultan would, with previous notification of the Powers, invite the Jews all over the world to return to the land of their fathers where they are to have autonomy and pay him an annual tribute. It is on this tribute that the loan would be based.

Hechler had already oriented himself a bit. On the trip from Horitz he composed a letter to the Kaiser, written in English on the stationery of the Vienna embassy, about the return of the Jews * The British official stamp gave the whole thing a vaguely official character.

I shall not write pamphlets, to be sure, but a simple report on what I have tried to do and what I perhaps have been prevented from doing. The book will be called "The Return of the Jews," and everyone will have his place in it.

What is it all about? It is about the solution of a question as old as Christianity, a great and beautiful cause, designed to delight the noblest hearts. It is the return of the Jews to Palestine!

There is truly something miraculous about the development • translator* Notr See miry of October it THE COMPLETE DIARIES OF THEODOR HERZL 499 of the movement for the return of the Jews. Received with enthusiasm by the penniless and young Jews, this idea has already spread around the world, as is evidenced by countless manifestations of support. And at the same time the idea can also serve to resolve the present Turkish difficulties. In contrast, the national Jewish arrangement means — quite apart from the

worldwide and promised fulfillment that it embodies — a genuine restoration of Turkey. The return of the Jews is the protection of the Christians in the Orient.

But the man who brought the daydreams he had while strolling through the Tuileries gardens and the Palais Royal in June, 1895 to Basel and the Congress may yet sail the Mediterranean Sea as a Jew returning home.

The return of even the semi-Asiatic Jews under the leadership of thoroughly modern persons must undoubtedly mean the restoration to health of this neglected corner of the Orient. Civilization and order would be brought there. Thus the migration of the Jews would eventually be an effective protection of the Christians in the Orient. The journey to the Holy land is now grandly conceived as a pilgrimage on the part of His Majesty. But it can turn out to be more; it can attain to the significance of a historic turning point in the Orient, if the return of the Jews is initiated.

Here, in brief and in the strictest confidence, are the facts. I have been to Constantinople and there have obtained results which actually surprised even myself. The Sultan took cognizance of my plan "Palestine for the Jews!"; and even though he resists the idea of a simple sale, he did treat me with distinction in various ways and gave me to understand that the deal could be made.

From the Sultan's circle the following proposition was advanced: The Sultan could ceremoniously invite the Jews to return to their historic homeland, to establish themselves there autonomously as vassals of the Turkish Empire and in return pay him a tribute (on the basis of which he could then raise a loan).

Our group wishes to place at His Majesty's disposal a graduated loan of \$458,000,000. THE COMPLETE DIARIES OF THEODOR HFR 71 dated loan of \$458,000,000

million pounds sterling. This loan is to be funded on the annual tribute which the autonomous Jewish settlers in Palestine have to pay to His Majesty. The tribute guaranteed by our group will amount to one hundred thousand pounds sterling in the first year and increase up to one million pounds sterling annually. The gradual rise in the tribute will be correlated with the gradual immigration of the Jews into Palestine, and the detailed procedure is to be worked out in the special conferences which are to be held in Constantinople. In return, His Majesty should graciously make the following concessions:

The immigration of the Jews into Palestine, which is not only to be completely unrestricted but is to be encouraged in every way by the imperial Turkish government. The immigrant Jews are to be given autonomy, guaranteed under international law in the constitution, government, and administration of justice in the territory assigned to them. (Palestine as a vassal state.)

In the Constantinople negotiations it will have to be determined in detail in what form the sovereign protection of His Majesty the Sultan will be exercised in Jewish Palestine and how the preservation of law and order is to be managed by the Jews themselves through security forces of their own.

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that the loan would be based.

Turkey's financial distress has reached a climax. It is now or never that we shall obtain Palestine. I am asking you, Sir Samuel, if you are willing to go to Constantinople with me in order to carry on the negotiations. I know it would be a great sacrifice for you to decide to make this trip. But if you make this sacrifice, Sir Samuel Montagu will be spoken of with gratitude as long as there are Jews alive.

While we were waiting, Ibrahim and Ghalib raved about the happy conditions to come: how it would be when the Jews came. They dreamed aloud of the improvement of agriculture and industry, of banks which would not serve foreign interests, etc.

But then Izzet returned with the Sultan's decision, and it was unfavorable. The Sultan is willing to open his Empire to all Jews who become Turkish subjects, but the regions to be settled are to be decided each time by the government, and Palestine is to be excluded. The Comp. Ott.-Jewish is to be allowed to colonize in Mesopotamia, Syria, Anatolia, anywhere at all, with the sole exception of Palestine!

But at the last moment I return once more to the place to which I am called by my profound devotion to Y.I.M.'s august person and the secular sympathies between the Turkish people and the Jewish nation.

We are asking only for the right to colonize in the Sanjak of Acre, in return for an annual payment of 100,000 Turk, pounds, and we are offering, based on this guaranteed annuity, a loan of 2 mill. Turk, pounds nominal value, issued at 80 per 100, the margin of 20 per 100 being sufficient to allow a profit for the syndicate.

Izzet Bey however advises the following: the Jews should acquire

some other territory and then offer it to Turkey as a trade (with additional payment). I immediately thought of Cyprus.

Letter to Nuri:* November 7, Vienna Your Excellency: Permit me to outline briefly for you the current state of affairs. Since the last Congress at Basel the movement has begun to lean toward Cyprus. Seeing that the Turkish government does not appear disposed to come to an understanding with us, they want to turn toward the island which is controlled by England and is always accessible to us. After several years immigrants there become full-edged citizens, enjoying a large measure of autonomy, etc.

Until the next Congress I will still be master of the situation But if I have nothing to show up to that time, our plans fall inui the water—of Cyprus."

I foresee the next developments like this: If by the Fourth Congress I have not made any headway with the Turkish government, I shall prepare the Cyprus project sous la main [in short order], go to London, speak with Salisbury, and induce the Congress to go to Cyprus for the time being.

If H.M. wishes to find out about my character and the usefulness of my plan to Turkey—nothing is easier. I have the great honor of being known to His Majesty the Emperor of Germany. Let H.M. the Sultan deign to learn about me from his powerful friend. Take action, Your Excellency, to procure the audience which I request, take action in the interest of your beloved sovereign, Of your beautiful country, and of the unhappy people whom I represent. Already they are beginning to be impatient; leaders are rising to launch other projects: settlement in Cyprus, emigration to America, since Turkey does not want to come to an understanding with us!

In the first excitement I wanted to write to Eulenburg and make

proposals in case it was true. Germany would then have to welcome a Jewish settlement on Cyprus with delight. We would rally on Cyprus and one day go over to Eretz Israel and take it by force, as it was taken from us long ago. But slept on this all-too-lurid idea, and the night brought me the decision that at this moment the wisest thing was to say nothing. Should Germany get Cyprus, I shall afterwards still have the opportunity to attempt the matter via Eulenburg and the Grand Duke of Saxe-Altenburg with England, which is apparently tired of discussing it »with Salisbury are even better, because I shall be able to win the good offices] in the

Transvaal question give me access to him. The Sultan's refusal assumes even more distinct form of the Politische Korrespondenz I would prepare to the next Congress for which I could obtain millionaires beforehand

On my trip to Koerber in the morning I thought over this speech of mine for the 5th Congress. I would declare that it was a combination of the currently bogged-down hopes for Palestine with the indispensable campaign to aid our poorest.

Poor Trietsch's idea, then, whom I also sent for mentally to put to work on the preparations. I would further declare to the Fifth Congress that Cyprus was only a step on the way to Palestine. That Turkey would then take us more seriously, etc. I could even hear the opposition and agreement of the Congress

He thought that I could carry out the Sinai-El Arish-Cyprus plan only with the aid of Lord Rothschild. The Rothschilds would have to become my agents in this country (England). They were highly respected here, where there was no anti-Semitism.

July 12, 1902 Dear Lord Rothschild: Please find enclosed the general

outlines of the plan (the Political aspects in English, the financial part in German) for the settlement of the destitute Jews on the Sinai Peninsula, in Egyptian Palestine, and on Cyprus.

Then I came to speak about the territory which I wanted from England: Cyprus, El Arish, and the Sinai Peninsula.

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